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Tensions Spur U.S.-Soviet Military Comparisons

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Which nation is stronger militarily—the United States or the Soviet Union?

Gen. Nathan F. Twining, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, says "the U.S.A."

He thinks the United States is not only stronger at present but it should so continue through the 1960's "with concentrated effort and good judgment."

Such new comparisons of strength are inevitable in the Panama crisis.

A United Press dispatch from Moscow Sept. 25 quotes diplomatic sources there as considering "the current crisis to be the most critical the world has faced since 1945."

It reports "a mood of pessimism unparalleled since World War II."

Military strength, even if not employed, is important in diplomacy as representing national potential. It is there if force is needed.

The nation with the big stick is listened to. At present who has the bigger stick, the U.S.A. or the U.S.S.R.?

Losing Lead

A report published by the Rockefeller Brothers Foundation, Jan. 5, 1958, put the United States ahead. But this might not continue, it declared.

"It appears the United States is rapidly losing its lead over the U.S.S.R. in the military race. For perhaps the next two years, we still possess a superiority in strategic striking power, and any Soviet attack on us would meet a crushing reply."

"The United States' position 'a year or two hence,' it said, depends on other matters. 'Unless present trends are reversed, the world balance of power will shift in favor of the Soviet bloc.'"

A second report compiled by a group whose original chairman was H. Rowan Gaither of the Ford Foundation, has not been published. Details of it were leaked to the press, however. This followed a gathering at the residence of William C. Foster, Deputy Undersecretary of Defense, called for the purpose of letting Vice-President Richard M. Nixon know what was considered to be a grave situation.

The United States and the Soviet Union were put down as nearly equal in ballistic missiles in the summer of 1957—13 months ago.

Reassuring View

President Lyndon B. Johnson taken a reassuring view of the situation.

Officials, including military and the all party, have been... of last... of the... of last...

October and November... Of the broad scale picture... Eisenhower reported...

"I think over all we have... reason to believe that we are... doing anything that human... ante and brain and reason... can do to keep our position... proper posture."

The Eisenhower statement was made in connection with his... of the Special Assistant... the Force Secretary for Miss... Thomas Gardner, Feb. 11, 1956. Mr. Gardner resigned in protest against what he considered lack of energy in the air power and missile program.

This year, Lt. Gen. James M. Gavin, chief of the Army's research and development organization, in his book "War and Peace in the Space Age," published last month, he declared:

"Furthermore, while Russia even now has an intercontinental ballistic missile, several years will have passed before we have an ICBM capability of any significance."

Missile Lag Period

"In short, we are now entering a missile lag period in which the Soviets will have a steadily increasing ICBM striking capability which we will be unable to match for several years. We are in mortal danger and the missile lag portends trouble of a serious nature."

Congressional opinion is divided, but anxiety is evident. Senate administration spokesman Leverett Saltonstall (R) of Massachusetts, in an exchange with Democrats at the close of Congress, reiterated the warning. Senator William Fulbright (D) of Arkansas, on the other hand, repeated the warning he originally made back Oct. 12, 1958.

"The part of the nation increases daily because of the way the incumbent administration has dulled and continues to dull the nation's awareness of the including intercontinental..."

Comparisons Made

Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev has battle the... with increased strategic... have... these... at... against the... Soviet... smaller... the... launched... said...

Air Force and a Navy, plus ballistic missiles of all types, including intercontinental ones. How do the two nations compare? Here are recent unofficial estimates.

Land forces: United States—divisions; U.S.S.R. about 175 divisions.

Sea: The United States has superiority in aircraft carriers, cruisers, and destroyers; the U.S.S.R. has around 600 submarines to some 200 United States submarines, including two with atomic power. The Soviet submarine weapon is the "Comet" supersonic missile, with range placed at 700 miles.

[Central Intelligence Agency Director Allen W. Dulles and Dr. Herbert Scoville, director of the CIA's office of scientific intelligence, reportedly told the Senate preparedness subcommittee Nov. 27, 1957, that United States cities within 500 miles of the coast were vulnerable to hydrogen-carrying missiles that could be launched from Soviet submarines.]

Space Hardware

Air: United States jets number around 9,500; U.S.S.R. believed to number more than 1,000. (United States strategy is based on atomic retaliatory power of the Strategic Air Command's long-range bombers, a portion of which are airborne at all times.) The United States outranks the Soviets in medium bombers; the Soviets are ahead in intercontinental jet bombers. Nuclear power: The Soviet

Union is believed to have caught up with the United States lead.

Atomic rocket: At four United States weighed only 16,000 three Soviet rocket engine is declared to 000-pounds thrust engine is far in pounds.

The foregoing tally is largely in the field of existing armaments.

Dr. Veronique of the United States states it declares it will lead the United States with Soviet missiles. Messrs. Dulles, testifying in Senate reportedly told that United States and Europe and Africa of Soviet intercontinental ballistic missiles.



Gen. Nathan F. Twining